

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2-3130
ADS 55 1767

August 10, 1955

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

This will refer to Mr. Arthur S. Flemming's letter dated June 3, 1955 on the subject of reducing the vulnerability of our Trans-Pacific communication services, and your subsequent reply.

In accordance with your views, Mr. Flemming has had conversations or exchanged correspondence with the United States international communication carriers regarding the possibility of laying a deep-sea cable between the United States and Hawaii.

For your information, the attached copy of a letter has been sent to Mr. Cleo Craig of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company setting forth our understanding of the position of his company relative to the cable.

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As a matter of further information, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company was the only one which had contemplated such a cable in its planning and was prepared to advance its timetable and attempt to meet national defense needs.

We shall keep you advised of any further developments in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



F. C. Alexander
Deputy Assistant Director
for Telecommunications

Attachment

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Executive Reg. S.
Att. 7-3130

August 5, 1955

Mr. Cleo Craig
President
American Telephone and Telegraph Company
195 Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Craig:

This will acknowledge with thanks the recent visit of your Messrs. Dumas and Killingsworth and our subsequent discussion regarding the possibility of laying a Pacific deep-sea cable.

As we understand the position of your company in this matter, you had contemplated, as a long-term project, the installation of a cable between the United States and Hawaii about 1960. However, in view of the expression from the Office of Defense Mobilization that such a cable is necessary to national defense at a substantially earlier date, we understand that you are prepared to give serious consideration to advancing your plans in order to make a cable available in 1957.

You have our assurance that serious consideration has been given to this matter and it is the opinion of this office that the installation of a deep-sea cable between the United States and Hawaii by 1957 is vital to the support of our national defense.

It is our further understanding of your position that such a cable, the capacity to be at least equal to that of your new Atlantic cable, would be laid by your company alone and that you are not desirous of entering into a joint venture with other interests.

As outlined in our conversation with Messrs. Dumas and Killingsworth we will proceed with a review of Government cable circuit requirements between the United States and Hawaii.

We shall appreciate being kept advised of any actions that you may take in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur S. Flemming
Director